

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Facial recognition technology is integrated into a multimedia surveillance system for enhancing the collection, distribution and management of recognition data by utilizing the system's cameras, databases, monitor stations, and notification systems. At least one camera, ideally an IP camera is provided. This IP camera performs additional processing steps to the captured video, specifically the captured video is digitized and compressed into a convenient compressed file format, and then sent to a network protocol stack for subsequent conveyance over a local or wide area network. The compressed digital video is transported via Local Area Network (LAN) or Wide Area Network (WAN) to a processor which performs the steps of Facial Separation, Facial Signature Generation, and Facial Database Lookup. The utility of the system may be enhanced by the increased use of networking techniques. In this enhancement, a group of networked processors perform the steps of Facial Separation and Facial Signature generation. The Facial Processors function as network resources, and are configured to process video from any networked camera, as required. This improves the flexibility and economics of the system. For example, during periods when a particular area is not used, Facial Processors may be diverted from analysis of that particular camera to an area of higher traffic. Also, the workload of a failed Facial Processor may be diverted to a different processor. The Facial Database may be treated as a general-purpose network resource, allowing a greater number of cameras and Facial Processors to perform Facial Signature lookups at any given time. Moreover, the digital IP surveillance network is often part of a larger

“network of networks”, thus allowing the Facial Database to be consulted by devices on a different network.